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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 4 (a))

Section 24
Human rights

1. At its 18th meeting, on 23 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 24)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 24 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The importance of the promotion and realization of human rights and of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was reiterated. Great attention was given to the programme, which is one of the main areas of work of the Organization as stated in the Charter of the United Nations. The importance of the right to development and of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families were underlined. Strong support for the High Commissioner was expressed.

4. The importance of strengthening the management of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as stated in General Assembly resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002 and in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

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(A/57/488), was emphasized. The view was expressed that the proposals in section 24 should be considered in line with the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the United Nations. The need to ensure the success of management reform and to support the human rights apparatus was underlined.

5. Concern was expressed regarding the increased reliance of the Office on extrabudgetary resources. Views were expressed that priorities and mandated activities should be guaranteed with commensurate regular budget resources.

6. A view was expressed that some proposals contained in the section went beyond the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/300.

7. The reduction in the number of outputs was welcomed. It was noted that some outputs were being discontinued owing to new technologies. It was considered that the Office should ensure that Member States that did not have such new technologies continue to receive the documentation in an appropriate format.

8. A view was expressed that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should make every effort to promote collaboration as well as division of labour with other United Nations organs, institutes and specialized agencies and ensure consistency in their respective policies.

9. The proliferation of human rights machinery was noted with concern.

10. The following amendments were proposed to section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the period 2004-2005:

Paragraph 24.2

At the end of the paragraph, add ", in full compliance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, in the spirit of constructive international dialogue and cooperation".

Paragraph 24.8 (a) (ii)

In the second line, delete "and rights-based approaches".

Table 24.7

(i) Add a new expected accomplishment to read as follows:

"Systematic action is taken to reclassify all posts in the new organizational structure according to their levels and types of service and to decide whether they belong to the 100 or the 200 series".

(ii) Add a new measurement of achievement to read as follows:

"The reduction in the number of staff under the 200 series of staff rules performing core functions of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights".

Paragraph 24.35

Delete the paragraph.

Table 24.11

(i) Add a new expected accomplishment to read:

"(e) Strengthened efforts that contribute to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance";

(ii) Add a new indicator of achievement to read:

"(e) An increased number of activities carried out to fulfil the mandates".

Paragraph 24.37

Delete the paragraph.

Table 24.13

(i) Add a new expected accomplishment to read:

"(c) The appropriate support to the States parties to the human rights treaties and the respective treaty bodies to review the reporting procedures of treaty bodies with a view to developing a more coordinated approach and to streamlining the reporting requirements under these treaties";

(ii) Add a new measurement of achievement to read:

"(c) Satisfaction of participants with the quality of services provided by the Office of the High Commissioner".

Paragraph 24.42

Delete the paragraph.

Table 24.15

(i) Under *Objective 2*, add a new measurement of achievement to read:

"The number of recommendations of special rapporteurs and representatives and expert and working groups endorsed in relevant resolutions";

(ii) Under *Objective 3*, add a new measurement of achievement to read:

"The number of United Nations country field operations supported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop training programmes and materials for human rights field staff".

Paragraph 24.51

Delete the paragraph.

11. The Committee recommended that the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus be discontinued owing to its long-standing lack of consensus on how to proceed with its programme of work and its inability to fulfil its mandate.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, carefully review section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, including the programme content in the light of all relevant mandates of the General Assembly.**